ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Enon Baptist Church,

MONROE COUNTY, ALA.

September 18, 19 & 20, 1895.

OFFICERS:

BERTRAND L. HIBBARD..MODERATOR.....MONROEVILLE, ALA.
SAMUEL H. DAILEY..... CLERK ....KEMPVILLE, ALA.

MONROEVILLE:
MONROE JOURNAL PRINT.
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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Calling the body to order.
2. Reading letters from the churches and enrollment of Messengers.
3. Appointment of committee on preaching.
4. Reading constitution.
5. Introductory sermon and adjournment.
6. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
7. Recognition of Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies and invite to seats with us.
8. Reception of churches.
9. Announcement of standing committees to report during the session, and filling vacancies, if any occur.
10. Hearing and discussing the reports on (1) Temperance, (2) Religious Periodicals, (3) Orphan's Home, (4) Sunday Schools, (5) Foreign Missions, (6) Home Missions, (7) State Missions, (8) Education, (9) Report of District Board, (11) Nominations and Requests, (12) Condition of Churches, (13) Appointment of Committees to report at next Session, (14) New Business, (15) Resolutions, (16) Adjournment.

HON. B. L. HIBBARD.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be called THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ART. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers duly elected by Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ in connection with this Association. Each church shall be entitled to three Messengers and an additional one for every fifty members or fractional part thereof

ART. 3. It shall meet annually according to adjournment; and when assembled thus, shall elect, by private ballot, a Moderator and a Clerk, whose duties shall be such as custom imposes on their respective offices. They shall continue in office until superceded by their duly elected successors.

ART. 4. This body is no "court of appeal;" and shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority over the churches.

ART. 5 The business of this body, when assembled, shall be to hear reports from the churches as to their spiritual condition, prosperity, etc., and to consult and advise together for their mutual development and co-operation in all matters pertaining to the evangelization of the world.

ART. 6. This body, when assembled, may receive other Missionary Baptist Churches into this Union.

ART. 7 This body may request or receive correspondence with any other like body, or any representative body or interest of our denomination.

ART. 8. This body may invite visiting brethren of like bodies and others representing our denominational interest, to seats with us, and such brethren may speak on any subject coming before the body, but can not vote or officiate as a member of this body.

ART. 9. It shall be the duty of every Messenger of this Association to remain until final adjournment, unless leave of adsence is obtained; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to call the roll of Messengers and to strike therefrom the names of all Messengers absent without leave.

ART. 10 The Constitution, the Order of Business and the By-Laws shall be printed annually in the minutes of this body.

ART. 11. The Clerk shall keep a regular file of the minutes of this body from year to year.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered, amended (except Art. 4.) or repealed and a new one adopted at any regular meeting of this body by a two-thirds voice of the body

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY--WEDNESDAY.

The seventy-ninth annual session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association was held with Enon Baptist church, Hollinger, Monroe county, Alabama, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 18th, 1895.

The Association convened at 10 o'clock, A. M., and after devotional exercises, conducted by Elder Wm. A. Locke, was called to order by the Moderator, B. L Hibbard.

The Clerk being absent, on motion Bro. Thos. S. Wiggins was appointed temporary Clerk.

The roll of churches was called and letters presented. Elders Wm. A. Locke, W. A. Parker, Jr., and Bro. S D. Nettles were appointed to read the letters.

Messengers were enrolled as follows:

ENROLLMENT OF MESSENGERS.

Monroeville church—Elder J. H Riffe, Bros B. L Hibbard and Thos S Wiggins.

Hamilton Hill church—J. A. Wiggins.

Repton church—Letter by pastor.

Ramah church—Bros. Jasper Powell, Asa Brantley, and A. N Powell.

Oak Grove church—Bros. J. J. Roley, Joseph Hanks, Charles Carter and James Davison.

Little River church—W. R Lambert.

Poplar Springs church Bros. T. E. Wiggins, W. A. House.

Zion church—Elders Wm. A Locke, J. C. Faulkenberry, D. M. McNeil, C. R Hixon and I. S. Weston.

Pleasant Ridge church—J. M. Dees, John Buford, Frank Murphy, Geo Roley.

Philadelphia church—S. D. Nettles, J. L. Newberry, S. H. Daily, B. M. Burns.

Enon church—James Brown, R. T. Solomon, M L. Lambert, Thos. S McNeil

Bethany church—L. R. Riley, D H Lee, W. S. Nash, Thos. Maxwell.

Salem church—H. A. Hendrix, E. H. Atkinson and Richard Surmons

Bellville church—F. T. Hines, Wm. Kyser, Horace A. Riggs

Mt. Pleasant church—B. B. Lambert.

Perdue Hill church—H. H. Bagget, W. E. Broughton, H. J. Agee, J. D. Boykin.

McConnico church—T. F. Lambert.

Pleasant Hill church—A C. Lambert, John Grimes, Joe Grimes, George Stacey and Billie Hales.

Judson church—W. T. Bates and Leslie Wainright.

Brewer Creek church—J. W. Joiner and J. H. Kelley.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following Brethren were requested to act as tellers for the election of officers for the ensuing year: S. H Dailey and N. A. McNeil. The election was ordered which resulted in the election of B. L. Hibbard, Moderator and S. H. Daily, Clerk.

The following named Brethren were appointed a committee on preaching: James Brown, R. T. Solomon, M. L. Lambert and T. S McNeil, who were the messengers of Enon church.

By request of the moderator, Elder Wm. A. Locke read the constitution.

A letter was received from the Conecuh Association announcing the dismissal of the Brewer Creek church from that body, for the purpose of uniting with the Bethlehem Association, also a letter from Brewer Creek church asking to be received as a member of this body; referred to the following committee: B. M. Burns, D. H Lee, J C. Faulkenberry.

Visitors were received and invited to take part in the deliberation, including all who reported during the session, as follows: Representing Missions and the Alabama Baptist, Elder L. M. Bradley; Conecuh Association, Bro. E T Loveless, Elders. W. D. Hubbard and J W. Stewart, the latter representing Orphan's Home. Elim Association, Elders, J. L Bryars, J. H McAnally, H. G. B. Ray.

In the absence of Elder A. J. Lambert, by request of the Association, Elder W. D. Hubbard preached the introductory sermon from Matthew 16th chap. 21st verse.

On motion, the morning session adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the moderator promptly at 2 o'clock, P M.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder J. H. Riffe.

The Moderator appointed the following committee on Nominations and Requests: C. R. Hixon, Chas. Carter, T. S. Wiggins.

The roll of Messengers was called and absentees noted.

An Auditing committee was appointed by the Moderator, consisting of W. E. Broughton, S. D. Nettles and J. C. Falkenberry.

On motion, the roll of committees appointed to report at this session was called and the absentees noted. The following-named brethren were substituted for the absentees: On Missions, J. A. Wiggins, Jasper Powell, J. J. Roley, W. R. Lambert, W. A. House, I. S. Weston; On Ministerial Education, D. M. McNeil, Frank Murphy; On Denominational Education, S. D. Nettles, R T. Solomon; On Temperance, L. R Riley and James Brown; On Sabbath Schools, W. S. Nash; On Orphans' Home, D. H. Lee and E. H Adkison; On Religious Periodicals, H. A. Riggs and John Grimes; On Woman's Work. D. Stacey and J. A. Boykin; On Condition of Churches and Statistics, W. A. Parker, Jr.

The committee on preaching made report as follows:

ORDER OF PREACHING.

Elder J. H. Riffe to preach at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, and Elder L M. Bradley at 3 o'clock P. M

Bro. B. M. Burns, chairman of the committee appointed to consider the application of Brewer Creek church for membership reported favorably, and the church was received as a member of this body by the moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her messengers, Brethren J. W. Joiner and J. H. Kelley.

The report on Foreign Missions was read, and after being discussed by Elders Riffe, Bradley, Stewart and Hubbard, was adopted as a part of the report on missions, as follows:

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The great lack of information is one of the greatest impediments to foreign missions. To furnish this information should be the chief end of such reports, hence the following.

1 AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.—The great commission (Matt. 28: 18-20; Mark 13: 15-16) given by the Son of God who declares: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," is our unquestionable authority for foreign missions, and Baptists are the only people who *can* and who *do* preach this commission just as it has been given, therefore, upon Baptists *alone* rests this responsibility.

2. Foreign Fields of Southern Baptists--China, Japan, Africa, Italy, Brazil, Mexico.

3. Population--China, 400,000,000; Japan, 38,000,000; Africa, 250,000,000; Italy, 30,000,000; Brazil, 14,000,000; Mexico, 10,000,000; Total, 742,000,000.

4. Work Begun--China, 1837; Japan, 1887; Africa, 1850; Italy, 1870; Brazil, 1881; Mexico, 1880.

5. Number of Missionaries--China 41, Japan 46, Africa 7, Italy 3, Brazil 14, Mexico 20, total 131.

6. Last Year's Work--Baptisms: China 118, Japan 9, Africa 67, Italy 28, Brazil 133, Mexico 20, total 375.

7. Present Membership--China 1,131, Japan 49, Africa 239, Italy 353, Brazil 610, Mexico 1,120, total 3,493.

8. Financial for Year Ending May--Total receipts, $125,417-42. The embarrassing debt of nearly an hundred thousand dollars was reported at Washington, D. C., reduced to $20,000. The total expense of missionary machinery, including interest on borrowed money, was only 8 per cent., *i. e.*, of every dollar contributed to foreign missions, 92 cents went direct to foreign fields.

9. Some Startling Facts--Every fourth man on the globe is a Chinaman; 30,000 die daily and about one million go into eternity every month. Of Japan's 38,000,000 only 5,000,000 have ever heard the gospel. In Africa a population two and a half times greater than that of the United States, has never yet been reached by missionaries, and Central Africa, ten times as large as Germany, has only been touched on the edges. South America only has one protestant missionary to every 400,000 of population.

10. Recommendations--(1) That the pastors of this association endeavor to develop the spirit of foreign missions and adopt some sort of systematic and business-like plan by which, if possible, to secure a contribution from every member. (2) That we endeavor to give *The Mission Journal* a wide circulation, whereby our people may become better informed upon this great question. Respectfully submitted. J. H. Riffe, Ch'm.

On motion the Association odjourned until to-morrow (Thursday) Morning, at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY---THURSDAY.

The Association was called to order at 9 o'clock, A. M., by the moderator. Devotional exercises conducted by Elder W. D. Hubbard.

The report on home missions was read, and after being discussed by Elder W. A. Parker, Jr., J. H Riffe, L. M. Bradley and W. D. Hubbard was adopted as part of the report on missions as follows:

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your committee report that from an extract taken from the fifteenth annual report of the Home Mission Board last May, at Washington, that on the 8th day of May, 1845, a convention of

the leading men from our Baptist churches in the southern states met in the city of Augusta, Georgia, and organized the Southern Baptist Convention This convention constituted two Boards, one for foreign missions and one for home or domestic missions "It is not a creature of itself."

THE FIELD—This field embraces Mexico, Cuba, Indian Territory, with many places in the southern states, etc., with twenty millions of people and only two and a half million of them Baptists. What a work before us!

GENERAL STATEMENTS—The number of missionaries this year, May 1st, 1895, 425, an increase of forty-four over the last year and more than any year of the Board's history. Baptized five thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, an increase of one thousand four hundred and fifty-one over last year, and five hundred and seventy-two more than have been baptized in any year since the organization of the convention.

RECEIPTS—Cash rectipts, $88,640,20, being $15.319.20 larger than last year, and greater than any previous year except the Centennial. The Board began the year with a debt of $6,763 54, has paid in house of worship in New Orleans, $6,476.50, and for church buildings at other points, $2,386 62, a total of $11.862.12. After paying missionaries April 1st, 1895, its indebtedness was $23,000, which, on May 1st, was reduced to $1,100.00 with a balance of $109.06 in the treasury

Increase of missionaries has been nearly 12 per cent., of receipts 20 per cent., and of baptisms, 32 per cent. Your committee recomend that the consolidated home and foreign journals be read by every Baptist in the S. B. convention.

Respectfully submitted. A J. LAMBERT, Ch'm.

A motion made by Bro W. E. Broughton that speeches by members of this body be limited to 15 minutes, was adopted.

Elder W. A. Locke read report on state missions, which report as amended was adopted as read without discussion as follows:

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee have no data from which to prepare a report, from what we can gather, there has been some improvement or advance in this enterprise. As the years go by it is gaining strength The work done is more efficient far reaching and telling. There are a hundred of good and efficient men engaged in incessant labor in almost all sections of Alabama making earnest efforts to reach the people with the enlightening and soul saving Gospel of truth. The colporteurs work in connection with the Board, and do good and efficient work with the limited means at their disposal There have been gracious revival influences growing out of this work that have been far reaching and eternity alone will unfold the vast amount of good done. We cannot afford to let this Board suffer, because it is the foundation of all missionary enterprise Respectfully submitted

W. A. LOCKE, Ch'm.

Amendment—We recommend the apportionment among the different churches of the amount asked for by this Board for this purpose.

The report on Ministerial Education was read and after being discussed by Elders J. W. Stewart, J. H. Riffe, L. M. Bradley, W. D. Hubbard, H. G B. Ray, J L. Bryars, W. A. Parker, Jr., and Brethren N A McNeil, Charles Carter E. R. Loveless, and amended by Elder J. H. Riffe, was adopted as follows:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee on Ministerial Education report as follows: We regard this subject as of vast importance, and second to no other that is now engaging the attention of this body, and should earnestly engage the attention of the churches, as we believe the prosperity of a church materially depends upon the efficiency of her pastor. When we consider the command of our Lord and Savior, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel," we are constrained to believe it to be the duty of the church to assist those who are consecrated to the call of the Master and willing to devote their time and energy to the work of the Ministry We would not detract one single honor or reverence for those who have gone forth to preach the Gospel without collegiate training, but we must urge the importance of an Educated Ministry. A preacher is a teacher, hence, the great importance of being thoroughly prepared for their noble work. The sacredness and dignity of the profession require that they should be equipped with the very best training that can be acquired. Society demands it, the church needs it, and God requires a ministry pure and sincere in heart with a mind richly stored with everything that may assist in the promotion of the Gospel. We believe it to be the duty of the churches to contribute a fund for the benefit of the devoted and consecrated young men who are struggling to acquire a knowledge of divine truth. Said fund to be placed in the hands of the executive committee of this body, to be carefully guarded to the end, that none but those who are devoted and consecrated to the Master's cause, shall become the beneficiaries thereof. Respectfully submitted.

S. H. DAILEY, Ch'm.

Amendment—That this association adopt Bros. Harris, A. Riggs and Collin A. Locke as beneficearies. Said beneficearies to be amenable to the association, and when able refund the amounts furnished them without interest, but should they abandon the Ministry, they shall refund the amounts received, with interest.

By request, Elder H. G. B Ray offered a prayer to the Throne of Grace for divine assistance in our noble work. The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, Elder J. H. Riffe preached from Acts 4th chapter, 13th verse. On motion, the morning session adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder J. W Stewart.

A motion prevailed that the 3 o'clock services announced for this afternoon, be dispensed with.

The report on Denominational Education was read, and after being discussed by Elder J. W. Stewart. was adopted as read

DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Denominal Education, beg leave to submit the following report: It is no longer a question as to the necessity of denominational schools. The question is, will we as Baptists, be loyal to those we have? We call especial attention to Howard College, at East Lake, Ala., as a school for our boys; to the Judson Female Institute, at Marion, Ala., for the education of our girls, and to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky., for our preachers. We would also emphasize the importance of every Baptist in the state standing faithfully by Howard College in this her time of gratest need. The College has had a great past. Let us as a denomination see to it that it has a just future. Respectfully submitted.

S. D. NETTLES

The report on Temperance was read and adopted without discussion.

TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on temperance report with pleasure, that, during the past year, there has been noted a great decrease in the use of intoxicating liquors, and especially in their excessive use We find this the case generally in our bounds, though in some communities the great evil has not perceptibly abated. We can not too earnestly emphasize and urge upon all Christians their duty by all legitimate means, to suppress, if possible, and blot out the evil not only among professing Christians, but throughout the entire community, for upon them alone, depends all moral and religious reformations T. S WIGGINS, Ch'm

The report on Sabbath schools was read and, after being discussed by Elders Locke, McAnally, Riffe and Lambert, and by Brethren Atkinson and Carter, was adopted as read.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath schools submits the following: Number of churches in the Bethlehem Association, 20; Number of Sabbath schools reported, 10; number of scholars enrolled, 345; average attendance, 211; total contributions, $28.60. Your committee further report that we find less than half the churches within our bounds have no Sabbath schools. We fear that it is the fault of the parents, whose duty it is to go to the Sabbath school with the children instead of sending them. We urge and

feel it to be the duty of parents to go with their children and study the lessons, and we hope when the association convenes again that all of the churches will send in good reports. In closing this report your committee earnestly urges upon the pastors of the churches in which there are no Sabbath schools, that they will make it a special matter of their pastoral work to establish a Sabbath school in such of their churches as have none. The Sabbath school is God's nursery, and it is our duty to labor therein, in order that the tender plants committed to our care, in coming years may blossom and bloom to the honor of the Master. Respectfully submitted W. S. Nash, Ch'm.

A motion to suspend the regular order of business prevailed, and a motion by Elder Riffe that the reports on the various topics engaging the attention of the Association be made hereafter by the churches appointed for that purpose, instead of by messengers, as heretofore, was adopted.

On motion, the report on Orphan's Home was made the special order for to morrow morning at 9 o'clock

The report on Religious Periodicals was read, and after being discussed by Elders Bradley, Stewart, Hubbard and Riffe was adopted as read, as follows :

RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS.

Your committee desire to call attention to certain periodicals. As regards our reading, we would, first of all, emphasize the reading of the Bible more in our laws For information concerning Missions, we recommend that our people read the Foreign Mission Journal. There are so many and such stinging truths published and we would like for our people to endeavor to secure them. Again, as a matter of Religion in our state, we would urge the importance of our entire membership reading the Alabama Baptist, published at Montgomery, Ala. The Young People s Leader published at Nashville, Tenn., would be good for our young people. Let our people, old and young, read Missionary literature, especially the lives of our good and great missionaries, and let all books be ordered through our Board, located at Montgomery. Respectfully submitted.

H. A. RIGGS, Ch'm

Committee on queries, requests and nominations made report as follows : Your committe find three requests for the sitting of this body with them the next session, and, after consultation with the messengers from the churches, we recommend that the next session of this association be held with the Pleasant Ridge church, beginning on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October, 1895, at 10 o'clock, A M. We recommend Bro. J. H. Riffe as messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention, Bro W. A. Locke as messenger to the State Baptist Convention, and that Bro. S. P Lindsey preach the next introductory sermon, and Bro W A Parker, Jr, as alternate. C. R. FIXON, Ch'm

Adopted

Elder J. H Riffe made a motion that the pastors be appointed a committee to nominate the Executive and Advisory Board Motion adopted.

A motion prevailed that the pastor and messengers remind their churches of their important duties in raising funds for the beneficiaries of this association.

Association adjourned until to morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY--FRIDAY.

The association was called to order at 9 o'clock, A M. by the moderator, and devotional exercises conducted by Elder W. D. Hubbard.

The report on Orphan's Home was read and after being discussed by Elder J. W. Stewart, was adopted as follows:

ORPHANS' HOME OF ALABAMA

Our Orphanage is now permanently located at Evergreen. The first steps taken toward its establishment were taken by Mrs. Woodson, when five years ago she gave to the Baptists of Alabama certain valuable property for the maintenance of a Baptist Widows' and Orphans' Home. This good sister has turned over to us all of her real estate, worth several thousand dollars, to be used after her death for this great purpose, except the Florida property, which she has given for immediate use.

The home was not actually started, however, till two years ago when in a small rented house it was opened, on the 10th day of March with three inmates.

We have received into the Home 48 children, of whom 24 are girls and 24 are boys, and have sent out by adoption 11, and 1 by apprenticeship.

The boys are taught to do farm work, and the girls do various kinds of house work

The older children attend school at the Academy, and the younger ones are taught in the Home. They attend Sunday school and church, and Sunday afternoon they engage in singing and reciting Scripture. Seven of the children have been baptized These have organized a child's prayer meeting, in which they themselves lead.

In November, 1893, to make room for our large and growing family, a permanent home was purchased, consisting of the Y. M. Rabb place, eighty acres of land lying on Main street, with a substantial brick residedce with ten rooms. Money is greatly needed to improve this property so as to add four more dormitories, a dining room and kitchen, and a school room. The property was bought for $5,000, to be paid in three annual installments, with interest on the deferred payments. The first was paid when due. The second amounting to about $1,800, was due January 1st, 1895, on which a balance of $273 is still due.

The third and last payment, amounting to about $1,930, will be due January 1st, 1896.

Let every Baptist church, every friend of the Home, and every one who wishes these poor children well, send something to aid in making this last payment.

The current expenses of the Home are about $200 per month. "The righteous considereth the cause of the poor" (Prov. 29:7)

We recommend that our churches and Sunday schools make liberal collections in December, to aid in the second payment, and that regular collections be taken through the year for current expenses. Send all contributions to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, Ala. Respectfully submitted. D. H. LEE, Ch'm

The moderator appointed the following committees of churches to report at the next session of this body.

Temperance—Hamilton Hill and Salem.

Religious Periodicals—McConnico, Pleasant Hill and Poplar Spring.

Orphans' Home—Bethany and Bellville.

Sunday Schools—Zion and Oak Grove.

Foreign Missions—Philadelphia and Ramah.

Home Missions—Monroeville and Repton.

State Missions—Pleasant Ridge and Brewer Creek.

Education—Perdue Hill, Little River and Mt. Pleasant.

Woman's Work—Enon, Judson and Montgomery Hill.

The report on woman's work was read and adopted without discussion, as follows: Your committee on woman's work make the following report: While we realize the great work done by the Christian women of our land, yet we would recommend the discontinuance of a separate report on this work. Respectfully submitted. JNO. D. BOYKIN, Ch'm.

The report on the condition of churches was read and discussed by Elder J. H. Riffe, and after prayer by Elder W. A. Locke, the report was adopted as read, as follows:

CONDITION OF CHURCHES.

Your committee on condition of churches submit the following:

Pleasant Hill—Pastor; condition prosperous, contribution meagre.

Salem—Pastor; growing condition, very meagre contributions but the spirit of missions growing slowly.

Zion—Pastor; much revived, contributions small.

Bethany—Pastor; prosperous; contributions fairly good.

Poplar Springs—Pastor; outlook favorable; contributions not large.

McConnico—Pastor; condition nothing marked; contributions medium.

Judson—Pastor; condition susceptible of improvement; contributions none, except pastor's salary and current expenses.

Little River—Pastor; poor showing, represented only by pastor and volunteer messenger; no contributions except 40 cents for minutes and $1.10 reported for state missions, but neither

cash nor voucher received

Hamilton Hill—Pastor; outlook encouraging; contributions fairly good.

Philadelphia—Pastor; condition good; contributions fair.

Oak Grove—Pastor; condition not reported; contribution small.

Monroeville—Pastor; been greatly blessed, but present condition only fairly good.

Repton—Pastor; church weak, but outlook encouraging; represented only by pastor and letter; contributions fairly good.

Mt Pleasant—Pastor condition not reported; contributions not large.

Bellville—A pastor called; as to condition, prosperity is hoped again; contributions, small; the church having been pastoriess nearly all the year

Ramah—Pastor: condition fairly good; contribution not large, but on the increase.

Pleasant Ridge—Pastor; condition fairly good: contributions a little on the increase

Enon—Pastor; condition, nothing given; contributions, small.

Perdue Hill—Pastor; condition good; contributions good.

Brewer Creek—Pastor; just admitted and outlook encouraging; contributions, 30 cents for minutes Respectfully submitted.

J. H. RIFFE, Ch'm.

Bro. W. E. Broughton chairman of the Auditing committee, made report which was adopted. (See table).

A report of the Executive District Board was read and adopted, as follows :

REPORT OF DISTRICT BOARD.

Your Board begs leave to report that since our last association, it has endeavered to carry out the instructions of this body in holding fifth Sunday meetings. Meetings were held at Perdue Hill, Salem and Oak Grove, but on account of the meagre attendance of its members, caused mainly by the inclemency of the weather, very little so far has been accomplished. The Board has sought information relating to destitutions and needed work, which resulted in two requests for meetings—one at Repton and the other at the Judson church. A meeting directed by the Board, was held at Repton, continuing eleven days and resulted in a reorganization of the church, twelve accessions and the call of a pastor, also the collection of $8.25, to the credit of district missions.

A meeting was also held with the Judson church, by Bro. S. P. Lindsey, a full report of which has not yet been received.

It is submitted that the work of this Board can be rendered very useful and effective by the co-operation of all its members, and the churches of the association. We therefore beg the hearty co-operation with the Board that may be selected for the ensuing year THOS. S. WIGGINS, Ch'm.

Elder J. H Riffe reported District and Advisary Board, which was adopted as follows :

DISTRICT AND ADVISORY BOARDS.

EXECUTIVE BOARD—T. S. Wiggins, chairman; W. E. Broughton, secretary and treasurer; E. D. Hixon, J. T. Newberry and L. R. Riley

ADVISORY BOARD—One from each church in the association, as follows: Bethany, D. H Lee; Monroeville, B. L. Hibbard; Philadelphia, S. H. Daily; Belleville. F P. Hines; Hamilton Hill. J. A. Wiggins; Pleasant Hill, T. J. Newberry; Salem, H. A. Hendrix; Enon, Jos. Rrown; McConnico, P F. Lambert; Zion, D M. McNeil; Brewer Creek, J. W. Joiner; Pleasant Ridge, Frank Murphy; Perdue Hill, H J Agee; Ramah, Jay Powell; Oak Grove, Joe Faulk; Little River, W. R. Lambert; Poplar Springs, W. A. House. Judson, W. P. Bates; Montgomery Hill, suggestsd; Repton, suggested; Mt. Pleasant, suggested

All the pastors of the association and duties of the Boards to be the same as last year. Respectfully submitted.

PASTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

On motion, a public collection was taken up for the benefit of the minute fund, which resulted in the collection of $4.90.

On motion, it was ordered that the clerk have minutes printed where it can be done cheapest, also that the clerk be allowed ten dollars for his services.

Elder J. H. Riffe reported order of business which was adopted. (See 2nd page of cover).

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED—That this body hereby tender a vote of thanks to Enon church and community for the hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained us during the sitting of this body

A motion prevailed that the Advisory Board meet with the Monroeville church the fifth Sunday in September, inst., 11 A M.

After singing "How firm a foundation, etc," and prayer by Elder J. H. McAnally, the association adjourned to meet with the Pleasant Ridge church on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October, 1896, at 10 o'clock. A. M.

B. L. HIBBARD, MODERATOR.

S. H. DAILEY, CLERK.

DIRECTORY OF BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION FOR 1895.

CHURCHES.	MEETNG	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE
Bethany	1 Sun	J H Riffe	Monroeville	J T Watkins	Burnt Corn
Enon	1 Sun	S P Lindsey	Perdue Hill	L R Carter	Hollinger
Philadelphia	3 Sun	J H Riffe	Monroeville	J D Nettles	Kempville
Pleasant Ridge	4 Sun	W A Locke	Axle	J L Smith	Monroeville
Ramah	3 Sun	I S Ridgway	Turkestan	A N Powell	Finklea
Belleville	4 Sun				
Brewer Creek	Saturday before	I S Ridgway	Turkestan	J A Joiner	Bowles
Repton	3 Sun	W A Parker Jr	Tensaw	F D Straughn	Repton
Hamilton Hill	3 Sun	A J Lambert	Mt Pleasant	J H Moore Sr	Manistee
Pleasant Hill	2 Sun	S P Lindsey	Perdue Hill		
Monroeville	2 Sun	J H Riffe	Monroeville	J DeLoach	Monroeville
Mt. Pleasant	2 Sun	W A Parker Jr	Tensaw	T W Weathrfd	Mt Pleasant
Perdue Hill	3 S n	S P Lindsey	Perdue Hill	J D Boykin	Perdue Hill
Poplar Springs	3 Sun	W A Locke	Axle	W A House	Nero
Oak Grove	4 Sun	S P Lindsey	Perdue Hill	M Stacey	Tekoa
Salem	2 Sun	W A Locke	Axle	L S Fountain	Perdue Hill
Zion	1 Sun	W A Locke	Axle	W R Lambert	Mt Pleasan
Little River	2 Sun	W A Parker Jr	Tensaw		
McConnico	1 Sun	R I Draughon	Perdue Hill	J L Ballard	Perdue Hill
Judson	1 Sun	J L Bryans	Bluff Sprgs	L W Ficklin	Atmore

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERIAL EDUCATION		FOR MISSIONS		HOME MISSIONS		STATE MISSIONS		DISTRICT MISSIONS.		ORPHANS HOME		Cash for Minutes
	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	
Bethan	4 30		2 50		2 50		2 50		2 50		50	9 90	2 20
Enon		95	1 25		1 00		1 00		1 25				1 60
Philadelphia	3 50	500	1 50	300	1 50	300	1 50	3 00	1 50	300		1400	1 75
Pleasant Ridge			2 50		2 50		3 08						2 00
Ramah					1 00		1 00		1 00				70
Belleville							3 00		1 25				2 50
Hamilton Hill			2 00			975		3 75					1 50
Pleasant Hill			1 28		1 28		1 03		1 31				1 55
Monroeville	8 45		4 85		4 85		4 85		4 87		3 05	7 65	2 50
Perdue Hill			7 77		7 77		7 77		7 79		2 35		1 85
Poplar Springs			68	18	68	18	68	18	71	21			25
Oak Grove	35		1 69		1 69		1 23		1 72		1 00		1 60
Salem			1 48		1 48		1 48	2 00	1 51				2 00
Zion	1 44		1 94		1 94		1 94				1 94		1 15
LittleRiver													40
McConnico			62		62		62		64		2 50		50
Judson													
Repton			30		30		30		8 55				75
Mt. Pleasant			1 55		1 55		1 55		1 55				50
Brewer's Creek													60
Total	1804	595	3291	318	3066		3353	893	3616	321	1669	3160	2690

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 1895.

CHURCHES.	Membership last year	Baptized	Rec'd. by letter	Dism. by letter	Excluded	Restored	Deceased	Total increase	To al decrease	Net intrease	Present me mbership	Value of church property
Bethany	47	17	3	3	2		1	20	6	14	61	$800
Enon	53	1	7				1	8	1	7	60	
Philadelphia	119	4	1	2	1		1	5	4	1	120	1000
Pleasant Ridge	95	4		1		1	1	5	2	3	98	
Ramah	74	17	3	2	3		4	20	9	11	85	150
Bellville	94			1			2		3		91	800
Brewer Creek	85	29	4				1	33	1	32	117	
Repton	18	3	10					13		13	31	
Hamilton Hill	34	7	6	1				13	1	12	46	500
Pleasant Hill	67	30	5			1	2	36	2	34	101	
Monroeville	77	14	7	1	1	1	1	22	3	19	96	900
Mt. Pleasant	23	4	2					6		6	29	300
Perdue Hill	32	10	22					32	6	26	58	1500
Poplar Springs	45	8	3		1			11	1	10	55	250
Oak Grove	86	8	9	6	3		1	17	9	8	94	
Salem	135	16	3	3		2	1	21	5	16	151	400
Zion	131	11	2	3		3	2	16	4	12	143	500
Little River	17		1					1		1	18	250
McConnico	45	2	3	19		2		7	19		33	450
Judson		10	2				1	12	1	11		
Total		277	135	93	42	11	10	199	238	77	233	1437	6,300

STATISTICS OF SABBATH SCHOOLS REPORTED IN 1895.

SCHOOLS	SUPERINTENDENT.	POST OFFICE	Pupils	Avrge attend	Contri but'n
Bethany	S. M. Watkins,	Burnt Corn,	35	20	$8 00
Enon	L. R Carter,	Hollinger,	35	20	
Philadelphia	J. T. Newberry,	Kempviile,	40	25	
Bellville	E J. Hardee,	Bellville,	46	20	
Hamilton Hill	J. A Wiggins,	Claiborne.	45	25	6 60
Monroeville	Jno W. Leslie,	Monroeville,	52	31	17 50
Mount Pleasant	A F. Lambert,	Mt Pleasant,	25	15	3 10
Zion	H. C. Johnson,	Axle,	45	35	
Little River	J. S Lambert,	Mt Pleasant,	22	10	
Judson	B F Carter,	Atmore,		20	
			345	221	35 20